PRESIDENT : Mr. Sivatanu Pillai, you cannot ask a supplementary question now. The practice in the Indian Legislative Assembly is that a member only rises once to ask supplementary questions, he asks what he wants to ask and he cannot ask again. I shall better rule that that shall be the custom here in future. If a member wants to ask supplementary questions he shall ask only once.

Appointment of ladies in the Secretariat.

15.* **MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of ladies employed in the Secretariat either as clerks or as typists ; and

(*b*) how many Ezhavas are in that group ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) 4—of whom 3 are acting clerks in the Secretariat and one in the Central Vernacular Records—Temporary staff.

(*b*) None.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : The question as originally sent by me referred to the High Court also. I do not know how in the printed question the Secretariat alone appears.

PRESIDENT : That would come in as a separate question.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know whether any applications have been received by Government from Ezhava ladies, either graduates or undergraduates, for typist's or clerk's posts ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, there have been applications.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : Are these applications now pending with the Government ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : They are in the file.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know the date of the earliest of such applications ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : In 1931, there was an application.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : Was it from a graduate ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know whether the Government will be pleased to appoint that lady in the near future ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : That depends upon the vacancy that may arise.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*) : May I know the number of ladies appointed from each community ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Two are Nair adies and one is a Syrian Christian.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the respective qualifications of those who have already been appointed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): One is a graduate and the rest, I think, are undergraduates.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is it because.....

PRESIDENT: Mr. Padmanabhan, you have asked your questions once.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Sir, I am the person who has sent in the main question.

PRESIDENT: You must not argue with the Chair.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): May I know how many applications were received from Ezhava ladies?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There was one in 1931. I have not got the information in regard to the exact number of applications, but they are only few.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—(*continued*).

PRESIDENT: The House will now continue the general discussion on the budget. The time-limit is fifteen minutes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I may be permitted to make a few observations on the budget. First, I would speak about the method of preparing the budget. I believe the data for preparing the budget must have been formulated by the Financial Secretary or the budget-making authority, whoever it may be, in consultation with the various departmental heads and other heads of institutions and other principal officers of the State who are the chief spending agencies. The reports or information submitted by the departmental heads of before being accepted by the budget-making authority as the basis the budget, I submit, may be sent for the consideration of an independent agency. By "an independent agency" I mean an agency having specialised knowledge in the subject of budget-making. The work of that agency will be to examine minutely the various recommendations contained in the reports submitted by the departmental heads or officers.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know how that agency should be constituted?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I request that I may not be interrupted because the time allotted to me is only very little. If I find time after my speech is over, I will answer all the questions which the members ask, to the best of my ability. That independent agency should scrutinise and examine minutely the various recommendations contained in the reports of these departmental heads. If necessary, they should go out into the country and conduct personal and local nvestigations in the matter.

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